

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL JUNE 6-8

REF: USOECD 11633

1. SUMMARY . UNDER OTHER BUSINESS IN COUNCIL MAY 15, SECGEN VAN LENNEP PRESENTED THIS PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON AMOUNT OF TIME TO BE ALLOCATED TO EACH ITEM ON MINISTERIAL AGENDA AND SUGGESTED THAT COUNCIL REFLECT ON WAYS TO CURTAIL LENGTH OF FORMAL INTERVENTIONS IN ORDER MAXIMIZE TIME AVAILABLE FOR GIVE AND TAKE DISCUSSION SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON QUESTION OF TIME TO BE ALLOCATED TO INDIVIDUAL AGENDA ITEMS, VAN LENNEP SUGGESTED THAT AFTERNOON OF JUNE 6 BE DEVOTED TO ITEM 1 (A), THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION. MINISTERS COULD THEN MOVE FROM 1 (A) TO 1 (B) DURING MORNING SESSION OF JUNE 7, WITH A VIEW TO COMPLETING ITEM 1 BEFORE LUNCH BREAK. MINISTERS COULD THEN TAKE UP ITEM 2 (B) ONGOING ENERGY ASSESSMENT, IMMEDIATELY AFTER LUNCH BREAK TO BE FOLLOWED BY ITEM 2 (C), QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. MORNING

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SESSION JUNE 8 WOULD TAKE UP ITEM 2 (A), POLICIES FOR COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND ITEM 3, COMMUNIQUE, WITH VIEW TO CONCLUDING MINISTERIAL BY LUNCH BREAK.

3. VAN LENNEP RECOGNIZED THIS AS VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE AND URGED COUNCIL TO REFLECT ON WAYS TO SHORTEN FORMAL INTERVENTIONS IN ORDER TO ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR DISCUSSION. REFERRING FAVORABLY TO PROCEDURAL RULES FOLLOWED AT RECENT AGRICULTURAL MINISTERIAL MEETING AND BILDERBERG CONFERENCE, VAN LENNEP SUGGESTED FORMAL STATEMENTS COULD BE CIRCULATED IN WRITING BEFORE OR AT MINISTERIAL, THEREBY ENABLING SPEAKERS SUBSTANTIALLY TO REDUCE LENGTH OF ORAL INTERVENTIONS. HE SUGGESTED AS WORKING HYPOTHESIS THAT MINISTERS CONSIDER LIMITING SPEECHES TO FIVE MINUTES WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT CHAIRMAN COULD MAKE EXCEPTIONS FOR CERTAIN MINISTERS WHO MIGHT WISH TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO SOME ITEMS THAN TO OTHERS.

4. FRENCH DEL SAID HE WOULD BE DISTURBED BY RIGID APPLICATION OF FIVE MINUTES RULE PARTICULARLY AS MANY MINISTERS INCLUDING HIS OWN WOULD PROBABLY WISH TO SPEAK AT SOME LENGTH ON SOME ITEMS AND PERHAPS NOT AT ALL ON OTHERS. US REP SHARED FRENCH DEL' S MISGIVINGS ABOUT FIVE MINUTE RULE, POINTING OUT THAT IN OUR VIEW ITEM 1 (B) WAS PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT ITEM ON AGENDA AND ONE ON WHICH US REP WOULD SURELY WISH TO SPEAK FOR MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES. US DEL MADE RELATED POINT THAT SCHEDULE OF ITEMS AND TIME ALLOCATED FOR EACH AS SUGGESTED BY SEC GEN OFFERED LESS TIME THAN HE WOULD WISH FOR MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION OF ITEM 1 (B) . VAN LENNEP EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR FRENCH AND US CONTRIBUTIONS AND SAID HE WOULD TAKE THEM FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS THE FOLLOWING WEEK WITH LOPEZ- BRAVO WHEN THEY PLAY TO CONSIDER ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF MINISTERIAL.

ROGERS

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